

Council Member Mike Sullivan's Newsletter

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Council Member Mike Sullivan



900 Bagby, First Floor
Houston, TX 77002

17629 El Camino Real
Suite 415
Houston, TX 77058

PHONE:
832.393.3008

FAX:
832.393.3279

E-MAIL:
DistrictE@houston.tx.gov

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facebook

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See us at:

www.houston.tx.gov

Residents of District E,

July was a particularly busy month. Besides the normal business of serving as your council member, I spent time participating in various activities supporting our military and their families. This included participation in a July 4th parade and barbeque and sponsoring the U. S. Honor Flag ceremony on the steps of city hall. I have also taken time to pay honor to those who protect us now, as well as those who have served us for years. One such hero was Command Sergeant Major Pascual Castro, who has served over 30 years in the U. S. Army, most recently the 1st BDE, 75th Div. (T. S.). I first met CSM Castro when I attended a deployment ceremony at Ellington Field almost two years ago, and have stayed in touch with him ever since. I have consistently supported "everything military," and do so with the utmost respect and dignity.

City Council unanimously approved the appointment of Daniel Krueger P. E., as Director of the Public Works and Engineering Department. Dan previously worked for the city, but went to Dallas for two years to manage an expansion of their rail system. I have a great deal of respect for Dan, having worked with him when I was a volunteer for former-Council Member Michael Berry. Dan has a no-nonsense approach to his work, does what he says he will do and has earned the respect of his peers. He previously worked for the U. S. Corps of Engineers, and is also a United States Army veteran.

As this newsletter goes to print, our heartfelt condolences go out to the family of Johnnie Williams, a Houston Fire Department fire fighter assigned to station #71 (located at 15,200 Space Center Blvd). Williams died from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident on August 1st. Our prayers also go out to his fire fighter family at HFD.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Mike Sullivan
Council Member

Fourth of July Parade

Council Member Sullivan rode horseback along side Mayor Annise Parker in Kingwood's annual 4th of July parade. Kingwood had the honor of HPD Chief Charles McClelland and Mounted Patrol officers participating in the parade as well. The parade is a favorite tradition in Kingwood, and residents enjoy lining West Lake Houston Parkway and Kingwood Drive to watch it every year. Council Member Sullivan worked hard to ensure that the current intersection construction would not affect this special tradition, and he worked with METRO to keep their park and ride gates open for sufficient parking.

Following the parade, Council Member Sullivan, his wife and Mayor Parker all attended Forest Cove's annual 4th of July BBQ at the Forest Cove Community Center. Forest Cove residents enjoyed dinner, entertainment, door prizes and kid's games.



Mayor Parker, Council Member Sullivan and Boy Scouts from Troop 27.

AmeriTrail Ribbon Cutting



Council Member Sullivan and AmeriCorps members.

Council Member Sullivan attended the ribbon cutting for the new 4.5 mile AmeriTrail in Lake Houston Wilderness Park. The AmeriTrail was cleared and constructed over the past year by three teams of the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps. AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, residential, national service program in which 1,100 young adults serve nationwide each year. During their 10-month term, Corps Members – all 18 to 24 years old – work in teams of 8 to 12 on projects that address compelling, self-identified community needs. Council Member Sullivan walked the trail with Corps members after the ribbon cutting.

Mills Branch Sidewalk Progress

Last month, Council Member Sullivan visited with crews constructing the new sidewalk on Mills Branch to ask questions about the construction activity, and extend his appreciation for their work. Council Member Sullivan has worked hard since he was sworn in for this project, and secured funding from Lake Houston TIRZ. The construction began late June and is expected to be completed by the time school starts in August. This sidewalk will provide a safe route to school for students attending Shadow Forest Elementary.



Chengdu Students Visit City Hall



Second Baptist Church is hosting 325 Chinese students and teachers from Chengdu in the Sichuan Province at each of its respective campuses this summer, including the North Campus in Kingwood. All 325 guests visited City Hall last month to gain a better understanding of American culture. Council Member Sullivan spoke to the crowd of students on the steps of City Hall, welcomed them to Houston and highlighted important facts about the city and local government.

Council Member Sullivan stands with Second Baptist Church representatives and students staying in Kingwood.

Lonestar College Traffic Meeting

On July 12th, Council Member Sullivan met with Lonestar College- Kingwood President, Dr. Katherine Persson and staff, along with representatives from the City of Houston's Traffic and Transportation Department to discuss pedestrian safety on the college campus. Traffic and Transportation will be conducting a speed study to determine what changes should be made to provide a safer environment not only for pedestrians, but for motorists as well. Dialogue was initiated as a result of a routine assessment of the current road conditions on Sorters Rd., which many Lonestar College students and faculty use several times a day to access the campus.

Project Updates

- Designs are underway for a new community center, which will be located at the old library site. Demolition contract was awarded on May 12, 2010. The contractor completed demolition and clean up on July 2nd.
- Widening of Northpark is under design. Construction is scheduled to begin in September 2010.
- Three new Houston Police Department officers have been added to the Kingwood substation effective May 31st, of which, is a bike officer.
- Intersection improvements at Woodland Hills and North Park Drive are close to completion. Improvements at West Lake Houston and Kingwood Drive will begin in June and should be complete by the end of October.

Flooding and Drainage Town Hall Meeting

Council Member Sullivan hosted his annual flooding and drainage town hall meeting last month to specifically address regional South Belt – Ellington flooding issues. Representatives from the City of Houston, Harris County Flood Control District and US Army Corps of Engineers presented updates on a variety of different topics and answered questions and addressed concerns from the audience. At-Large City Council Member Stephen Costello also attended the meeting as Chair of the Flooding and Drainage Committee. He gave an update on the committee as well as the Renew Houston campaign.

Council Member Sullivan thanks the representatives who attended and San Jacinto College – South for their accommodations.

Retirement Ceremonies at HFD Station 61

On July 9, HFD Captain Lonny Meadors from Station 61, retired from the Houston Fire Department after 35 years of service to the City of Houston. Council Member Sullivan joined Capt. Meadors's family, friends and colleagues at his retirement party at the station. During the party, he presented Capt. Meadors with a certificate of recognition for his distinguished career and dedication to the city.

Fire Fighter Lester Harvey also retired from the Houston Fire Department last month. A retirement celebration was held on July 13th for him after 31 years of service with the city. Council Member Sullivan attended his retirement ceremony as well and presented Fire Fighter Harvey with a certificate of special recognition for his service to the city, all of which was done at Station 61.

Council Member Sullivan thanks both Captain Meadors and Fire Fighter Harvey for their service and wishes them much luck in the future.



Council Member Sullivan, Captain Meadors and his wife



Council Member Sullivan and Fire Fighter Harvey

South Point Park and Ride Ribbon Cutting



METRO's Executive VP John Sedlak, Donna Coleman from Sen. Mike Jackson's Office, South Belt Chamber members David Flickinger, Chris Clark and Sally Mitchell and Council Member Mike Sullivan cut the ribbon.

METRO's newly expanded South Point Park and Ride lot located at 12410 Kurland at Interstate 45 is now open to patrons. On July 12th, Council Member Sullivan participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony along with METRO employees and the South Belt Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the grand opening. The new lot has an additional 390 parking spaces, in addition to its existing 376 spots, and accommodates patrons traveling to the Texas Medical Center.

Council Member Sullivan worked directly with METRO to increase spaces at the South Point lot after receiving feedback from his constituents and South Belt Ellington Leader owner, Marie Flickinger that the Fuqua Park and Ride lot was at capacity.

Project Updates

- Sagemont Community Center design work is underway.
- Outdoor lighting for Law Park is scheduled to begin this month.
- The new 12,000 square foot and LEED Silver certified J.S. Bracewell Library is open.
- Monroe Road improvements are complete, and open all the way to Beltway 8.
- METRO's newly expanded South Point Park and Ride Lot is open and has an additional 390 parking spaces available for its patrons.

BAHEP Luncheon with Mayor Parker

Mayor Annise Parker was the guest speaker at the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's general luncheon in July. Council Member Sullivan had the honor introducing her to BAHEP members and guests. Mayor Parker spoke about her first six months in office and touched on such topics as NASA/JSC, Renew Houston and appointing Council Member Sullivan as the chair of the Special Ethics and Council Governance Committee on Redistricting and Term Limits. BAHEP members were also given the opportunity to ask her questions.



Council Member Sullivan introduces Mayor Parker to the BAHEP audience.

Clear Lake Super Neighborhood Council Recognized



Council Member Sullivan, Paul Chavez, Leslie Alvarez, Mayor Parker, Eva De Cardenas, Elaina Polsen, David Glover, Maria Bolanos and Mira Washington

On Tuesday, July 27th, the Clear Lake Super Neighborhood Council was officially recognized by Mayor Annise Parker and city council. Council Member Sullivan presented the council with an official proclamation and urged the stakeholders to work with him on projects. Maria Bolanos from the Mayor's Citizens Assistance Office was also appointed as the council's official liaison.

Super Neighborhood 81 acts to represent the interests of the Clear Lake area and encourage residents of the communities and local businesses to work together to identify, prioritize and address the needs and concerns of the broader community. The council meets to discuss issues and projects that directly impact the community and form a Super Neighborhood Action Plan to prepare for improvements.

For more information please call Donald Perkins at 713.837.7803.

NASA/JSC Tour

Council Member Sullivan and his staff were given a behind the scenes tour of NASA and its facilities last month to gain a better understanding of projects and the agency's everyday operations. Brian Freedman with NASA's Governmental Affairs Office led the tour and showed the District E office the Astromaterials Curation Facility, Lunar Observation Gallery, Thermal Vacuum Chambers and the Vehicle Mockup Facility. The District E office thanks Brian for the tour and for providing his knowledge of the facility and the history behind JSC.



Brian Freedman, Mary Cerimele, Deputy Manager, JSC and Council Member Sullivan

CCISD Achieves “Exemplary” Ratings

Council Member Sullivan congratulates the Clear Creek Independent School District for achieving Exemplary ratings from the Texas Education Agency. Clear Creek ISD is the second largest school district to reach this level since Texas implemented its current accountability system. This milestone has been years in the making and according to Greg Smith, Superintendent of Schools, the Texas Education Agency rating reflects the district's commitment to continuous improvement for all students.

Project Updates

- Sylvan Rodriguez Park is currently in the programming phase. Construction is scheduled to begin fiscal year 2012.
- \$250,000 in overtime has been designated for use by HPD Clear Lake substation.
- Ellington Airport has almost \$50 million dollars in military construction projects now underway.

Term Limits and Redistricting Committee Meeting



Council Member Sullivan addresses a question to City Attorney Dave Feldman.

Council Member Sullivan was recently appointed by Mayor Annise Parker as Chair of the Special Ethics and Council Governance Committee on Redistricting and Term Limits. The committee met for the first time last month to consider the recommendation of term limits proposed by the Term Limits Commission, to discuss the redistricting timeline, to plan for town hall/community input meetings in March 2011 and to discuss the proposed charter amendment on residency requirements for single-member districts for the November 8, 2011 general election.

All council members and the public are invited to attend the meetings. They are also broadcasted on the local municipal channel. For more information please contact council Member Sullivan's office at 832.393.3008.

United States Honor Flag Ceremony

Council Member Sullivan welcomed the United States Honor Flag to City Hall on Friday, July 23rd. This flag arrived in Houston on the final stop of a statewide tour of Texas. The tour is underwritten by Chevrolet. This flag is a symbolic reminder of the sacrifices made by the men and women in uniform. During the ceremony, Council Member Sullivan presented Tammy Heisler with the United States Honor Network and Commander Sergeant Major Pascual Castro proclamations for their duty and honor. He also recognized Houston's Police Department and Fire Department and thanks HPD Chief Charles McLelland and HFD Acting Chief Rick Flanagan for participating in the ceremony.

The Honor Flag flew over the recovery efforts shortly after 9/11 and has since become an important symbol for the sacrifice and service of the nation's military, law enforcement officers and fire fighters. For more information, please visit www.ushonorflag.org.



The Honor Guard marches the Honor Flag out onto the steps of City Hall



The ceremony began with Council Member Sullivan saying a prayer and recognizing the participants including Chief McLelland, Chief Flanagan, Tammy Heisler, Comm. Sgt. Maj. Castro and all those active and veteran soldiers who serve our country proudly.



Council Member Sullivan, Acting Chief Flanagan, Tammy Heisler, Chief McLelland, Comm. Sgt. Maj. Castro and Dan Huberty



Comm. Sgt. Maj. Castro retires the honor flag.

USO Visit

Council Member Sullivan visited the United Service Organization (USO) at Bush Intercontinental Airport last month. While visiting the renovated center, he visited with active soldiers and their families who were using the accommodations between flights. Interim Director of the Houston Airport System, Colonel Eric Potts also visited with Council Member Sullivan and those using the center.

The USO hospitality center is located in the Mickey Leland International Terminal D, across from gate D-2. It provides troops and their families an area where they can rest between flights and receive travel information and assistance. Council Member Sullivan thanks the Houston Airport system, USO Station Manager Robin Duhs and the many volunteers that make the daily operations of the center possible and successful.



USO Station Manager Robin Duhs and Council Member Sullivan

Houston Dynamo Military Appreciation Day



Dynamo COO Chris Canetti, Council Member Sullivan, U.S. Army representative and Camilo Rojas



Houston Dynamo Brad Davis and Council Member Sullivan

Council Member Sullivan had the honor of presenting the Houston Dynamo with an official proclamation declaring July 10, 2010 as the City of Houston's official Military Appreciation Day during the Dynamo vs. Columbus Crew game last month. He also presented Khrysten Darm, Public Affairs Officer of the U.S. Army and Camilo Rojas of Silver Eagle Distributors with certificates for sponsoring the event and lending their unwavering support to the military troops.

Following the game, Council Member Sullivan attended Dynamo player Brad Davis's meet and greet. Davis started Brad's Brigade, a campaign organized to recognize the United States troops and their families for their service and dedication to our country. Council Member Sullivan presented Davis with a surprise certificate for organizing the brigade and for his continuous support of the military.

Davis's commitment to the military is not a recent development; the 28-year-old has been bringing military families to Dynamo games since arriving in Houston with the club prior to the 2006 season.

Ask Davis why the military means so much to him, and the answer is simple: family. His grandfather, father, uncle, cousin, and best friend have all served in the armed forces and are just part of his personal connection to military service.

VivaAerobus Inaugural Flight Ceremony

The Houston Airport System celebrated its newest airline, VivaAerobus, during an inaugural flight ceremony at Bush Intercontinental Airport on July 8th. The celebration began with a water arch salute as the arriving flight pulled up to Terminal D. A ribbon cutting ceremony followed, in which Council Member Sullivan, Viva Aerobus employees and Houston Airport representatives all participated. Council Member Sullivan also presented a proclamation on behalf of Mayor Parker declaring July 8th as VivaAerobus Day in the City of Houston.

Pictured: HAS Chief Development Officer Eric Potts, Harris County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia's representative Marco Bracamontes, Acting consul Gen. of Mex. Norberto Terrazas, VivaAerobus CEO Juan Carlos Zuazua, Council Member Sullivan, HAS Chief Commercial Development Officer Ian Wadsworth and HAS Air Service Development Director Genaro Pena



Council Member Sullivan cuts the ribbon with Norberto Terrazas, Acting Consul General of Mexico.

Mounted Patrol Ceremony



Council Member Sullivan and Officer Rebecca Gunderson (Picture taken by Mike McCoy)

Three new Houston Police Department officers were recognized as part of the Mounted Patrol Unit at a ceremony on July 21, 2010 at Discovery Green Park. The new officers Horace Mann, Jerry Alaniz and Rebecca Gunderson, were given their Mounted Patrol pins welcoming them into the respected group. These pins are the “crossed sabers,” and are the most recognizable traditional insignia of the mounted patrol unit around the world. Council Member Sullivan attended the ceremony and congratulated the officers on their new appointment.

SWAT Training Boeing 737

On Monday, July 19th, the Houston Police Department unveiled their newest training platform, a decommissioned Boeing 737. The aircraft will be used as a training ground for HPD and regional law enforcement agencies. HPD is the first law enforcement agency in the United States to be granted a decommissioned, fully functional aircraft from the Department of Defense. Council Member Sullivan attended the ceremony to represent City Council.

Congressman Ted Poe was responsible for acquiring the aircraft, tax free, for Houston.



Council Member Sullivan, Cong. Poe, HPD Chief McLelland and SWAT Officers

MLS All-Star Press Conference



Council Member Sullivan, Mayor Parker and Dynamo COO Chris Canetti

On July 14th, Mayor Parker helped Houston Dynamo's Chief Operating Officer Chris Canetti announce this year's MLS All-Star events taking place in Houston. The MLS All-Star game came to Houston for the first time last month where some of the most talented players faced the British club, Manchester United. Leading up to the game several events took place around the city including the Dynamo Charities Go for Goal 5k Run, a celebrity soccer game at Discovery Green, Kicking and Screening soccer film festival, etc. Council Member Sullivan participated in the press conference in support of the city's largest soccer event in history.

Hurricane Preparedness

Council Member Sullivan continues to urge his constituents to be prepared for this year's hurricane season. Please make sure to have a plan, have a kit and stay informed. Continue to stay informed by visiting www.hidefromthewind.com for more hurricane preparedness information, check lists and other useful information. Council Member Sullivan wants to thank Haskell Moore, the website developer, for his ongoing efforts to educate the public about hurricane safety.

Heavy Trash

Council Member Sullivan would like to remind District E residents that the City of Houston's Solid Waste Department will only pick up **Junk Waste** in August. Junk Waste is defined as furniture, appliances and other bulky material. Resident's who receive City of Houston trash pick up service can legally put junk waste out at 6:00 p.m. the Friday before their designated pick-up day.

For more information, please visit the Solid Waste Department's website at www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste.

City Hall Annex
900 Bagby
First Floor
Houston, TX 77002

Monica Aizpurua, Chief of Staff
Karina Moreno, District Outreach Coordinator
Autumn Jodzio, North Sector Manager
Lauren Doak, South Sector Manager

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